

son must be upright in heart before he can walk uprightly thru this world whether seen of men or not. Such must think and feel in accordance with the spirit of righteousness before they act uprightly, and carry with them a loving confidence to whom they may come in contact.

Louisville, Ohio.

NEGLIGENCE

Z. T. LIVENGOD

Many men fail in business because they neglect one or two important items in their particular calling.

School teachers fail because they neglect a few important elements in successful training of the mind. I have seen industrious and intelligent farmers fail because they neglected some things essential.

Some pastors fail because they neglect some of the qualities that would guard and feed and discipline their flock, and the things over which they show such an indifference may be very few and of a seemingly minor importance, yet they just as effectively bring failure and defeat.

Christianity has been of great value to the world. It has benefitted humanity wonderfully, and yet the real treasures and worth of Christianity have scarcely been touched. Simply because we have neglected so much.

When the church had enthusiasm she lacked wisdom and righteousness, and her zeal ran mad and void. Then again the church had more righteousness, apparent, but this lost its power because of her lukewarmness and indifference. I feel as tho our present weakness was caused by that demoralizing and devitalizing negative quantity called carelessness, indifference, negligence. You have lost faith in your church, in your church paper, in your pastor, in your Sunday-school superintendent. In fact it seems you have lost interest and faith in about everything except yourself, and upon some occasions you have almost lost faith in yourself. Jesus was very zealous for his Father's work. "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh in which no man can work." John 9:4. We can not afford to neglect what Jesus gave us to do. Jesus wants us to be wise, to be righteous. We can not with impunity neglect. We must do his work while it is day, the night cometh. Do we realize it? The night of the soul. Some of us lounge about as tho there was no night.

Some of our able writers are neglecting to do their part. Some have lost their former enthusiasm and are lukewarm and even cold. Some preachers are "ditto." And some lay Christians are also neglecting. I do not mean the

mother with a half dozen, more or less of children to take up her time and talent; for these are, as a rule, the zealous and lively members in the church. But I mean those who are sitting around on "ecclesiastical store boxes" or on some "religious fence," whittling away at some weak neighbor's foibles and follies. For verily those who neglect their Christian duty the most are the greatest to see apparent weaknesses in others. Dr. Talmage says in a recent editorial that "I have huge piles of letters of good advice, and the poorer the syntax and etymology the more urgent the counsel. Letters discussing theological points, spelling the word God with a small 'g.'" Let us give the more earnest heed to the things which Jesus has said lest we let them slip. For if we neglect we can not escape the condemnation. May the good Lord help us not to neglect our God-given duty. Let us be zealous for God and his word. Away with that blighting, cursed indifference that has landed so many in ruin and everlasting shame and disgrace. Stand up for your church and your church paper.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MRS. J. W. BLACK

The Lord's prayer is beautifully recorded in Matthew 6:9.

It was taught by Jesus Christ to his beloved disciples. In it are five acknowledgements of the leading themes of the Christian religion, and four of the most essential petitions.

"Our Father which art in heaven."

The above is a very beautiful appellation and can only be realized in its fullness when we have come to God thru his Son Jesus Christ. "Hallowed be thy name." This signifies that this name is to be kept by us as very sacred and reverential. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as in heaven." That the kingdom has not yet fully come but that those who pray this prayer should resign their own will and be found endeavoring to carry the will of the Lord into effect. "Give us this day our daily bread." This may signify spiritual and natural bread, which we should daily ask for as our sustenance. "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." This signifies that if we wish our debts forgiven, we must wholly forgive our debtors. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." God does not tempt us, but suffers us to be tempted, but not above our ability. Even our beloved Master for a time was led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And many that have lost their first love towards God, should remember to repent, or else the candlestick shall be removed and great will be the temptation and the delivery into evil. "For

thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory. Amen." This kingdom has already come in some form. Let us pray and work that it will come in all its power and glory.

Auburn, Ill.

"HOW YE HEAR"

L. A. HAZLETT

I like the message of the gospel because it is a personal message to man. Throughout the New Testament Christ speaks to me. When I open the Divine volume I am brought face to face with God. It is a personal, individual, confidential talk with the Master. Could we who read God's word fully realize this fact that this message is for me and to me there would be more conversions in the world than there is. When we hear his message from the pulpit how often do persons, not only the non-professor but the professor in the church console themselves with the thought—"That was very good for brother A, sorry he was absent." Passing the fact by that that discourse admitted of a personal application to all, for spiritual growth and development. Take heed therefore how ye hear says Christ. Come unto me all ye that labor, etc. Go ye, etc.

Daniel Webster said of a discourse—"I want it personal, *personal*." Those are the only messages that will convict the world of sin and bring man to Christ. "Take heed what ye hear." "Take heed how ye hear." This is applicable to "what ye read and how ye read," alike equally important. Confusion and misunderstanding result from this failure to exercise care as to how ye read. Some fail to put their ideas in as clear a light as they might and hence as a result are misunderstood if the reader is not careful and not acquainted with the matter under consideration. To illustrate and be clear, I have only to recall from a recent report in EVANGELIST a meeting. This report reads, "I have been in revival work seventy one nights this winter, and have seen eighty-one come into the Brethren church." This I fear is misleading. Leaving the impression to many that in these seventy-one nights he had preached that many discourses in as many evenings, "and have seen eighty-one come into the Brethren church," with the idea conveyed to many that he had received that number into the church. I do not say that this was done intentionally to convey such ideas. Any lay member or sinner could (and how often does) witness numbers come into the church. That does not prove anything meritorious. A certain brother some time ago told another member that Brother — held a meeting at a certain place with a big ingathering, even giving the number of converts he received. (I do not recall the number)